--19. The system recited in Claim 13 wherein the data distribution system, comprises a satellite-based data distribution system.--

REMARKS

Regarding the status of this application, Claims 8, 15 and 16 have been amended, Claims 17-19 have been added, and Claims 1-19 are presently pending in this application. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,085,193 issued to Malkin et al. The Malkin et al. patent states that it discloses a "method and system for prefetching data for clients associated with a proxy server hierarchy and an enhanced content server data transfer to the clients. The method for prefetching data identifies data access patterns and prefetches select information based on a dynamic interpretation of the data access patterns. The content server or proxy server identifies data access reference patterns of clients associated with the content server or the proxy server hierarchy. The data access patterns are preferably stored in a statistics table. The content server generates prefetch hint information based on inputs from the statistics table. The prefetch hint information annotates requested information or objects requested by the clients. The prefetch hint information optimally is updated as the requested information passes through the proxy server hierarchy. The prefetch hint information annotates the requested information requested by the clients. The ultimate decision to prefetch select information for the clients is made based on the prefetch hint information and prefetch hint values. The prefetch hint value is calculated based on local node-specific factors, such as storage constraints and access time."

However, it is respectfully submitted that this is not what is done in implementing the present invention. In the present invention, information corresponding to probability distributions that local caches satisfy requests from their respective users is processed to predictively distribute the desired content to the respective users. It is respectfully submitted that processing probability distribution information to predictively distribute content to users does not correspond to prefetching information based on a dynamic interpretation of data access patterns or prefetch hint information that annotates requested information or objects requested by clients. It is respectfully submitted that data access patterns and such prefetch hint information are not information corresponding to probability distributions that the local caches satisfy requests from their respective users to predictively distribute the desired content to the respective users that is processed by the present harvesting software.

Claim 1 calls for a caching system for use with a data distribution system, comprising:

a master cache for receiving content for distribution by the data distribution system to one or more users;
a gateway for receiving content that is distributed by the data distribution system from the master cache;
one or more local caches for storing the content received by the gateway destined for the one or more users; and

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